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044: Building Consensus on Standards for Democratic Elections - 6.0 CEUs

CEU: 6.0 **Duration:** 18hours 10minutes **Tuition:** $5,700

Course Banner

Teachers:

- Nelson Ilodigwe PhD. (Dr. Ilodigwe holds a B.A. in Political Science and an M.P.A. in Public Administration from Texas Southern University, and a Ph.D. in Management and Organizations from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).)

Course Topics:

- 21st Century

Program Locations & Dates:

- Houston, TX USA: Oct. 19-23

Program Tags:

- Crisis

About Course

This course on Building Consensus on Standards for Democratic Elections empowers individuals and institutions to agree on fundamental principles that ensure free, fair, and inclusive elections. Participants will explore how shared standards foster public trust and strengthen democracy through transparency, inclusion, and accountability.

Course Overview

Establishing common ground on what makes an election democratic is essential for its legitimacy. This course provides tools and techniques to build consensus on electoral principles such as transparency, inclusivity, impartiality, and verifiability.

Through real-world case studies, interactive group work, and practical exercises, participants will examine how electoral standards are developed, debated, and adopted by election stakeholders. The course emphasizes dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding as key pillars of electoral integrity.

The learning environment encourages participants from diverse backgrounds—whether technical, civic, or grassroots—to explore shared democratic values and approaches to implementation, monitoring, and dispute resolution.

Participants will leave with the skills to convene discussions, promote inclusive participation, and advocate for election frameworks that reflect democratic commitments and the expectations of the public.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to help participants develop the knowledge and skills needed to:

- Understand key standards that define democratic elections
- Facilitate consensus-building among diverse electoral actors
- Promote transparency, fairness, and inclusivity in electoral processes
- Encourage civic engagement and trust in electoral systems
- Apply principles of constructive dialogue in high-stakes environments

Learning Outcomes

- Define and explain international standards for democratic elections
- Apply methods to build consensus among electoral stakeholders
- Facilitate discussions on transparency, fairness, and access
- Design inclusive dialogue processes around electoral issues
- Identify and mitigate barriers to agreement on key principles

Course Requirements

- Interest in election fairness and democratic principles
- Willingness to engage in dialogue and collaborative activities
- Basic literacy and ability to follow structured learning
- Access to a device with internet connection
- Openness to learning from diverse perspectives and experiences

Course Outline

- Introduction to Democratic Election Standards
- Case Study: Aligning Stakeholder Interests
- Principles of Transparency, Inclusivity, and Equity
- Experiential Exercise: Building Trust Through Dialogue
- Facilitating Multi-Stakeholder Electoral Conversations
- Identifying Gaps in Electoral Frameworks
- Simulation: National Dialogue on Electoral Reform
- Monitoring and Evaluating Standard Adoption
- Handling Disputes and Disagreements Peacefully
- Action Planning: Creating a Local Consensus Strategy

Why This Course Matters

Chidi Okeke
Election Commissioner, Nigeria
"The dialogue techniques we learned helped us unite different parties around shared electoral goals. It's been a turning point for trust in our local process."

Sophie Tremblay
Civic Educator, Canada
"This course gave me the language and tools to bridge divides between citizen groups and election authorities. We now co-create our engagement strategies."

Prakash Bista
Observer, Nepal
"Before this training, our observer group lacked a shared understanding of election standards. Now we're aligned and confident in our assessments."

Course Content

Module 1: Introduction to Democratic Election Standards
Understand the principles and values behind credible, democratic elections.

- **What defines a democratic election?**
- **The role of standards in election legitimacy**
- **Global examples of democratic principles in action**

Module 2: Building Inclusive Consensus
Learn how to involve all stakeholders in forming common election standards.

- **The importance of inclusive dialogue**
- **Techniques for building mutual understanding**
- **Working with civil society and marginalized groups**

Module 3: Core Elements of Election Standards
Dive into key election standards such as transparency, access, and impartiality.

- **Transparency in electoral processes**
- **Equal access for voters and candidates**
- **Impartiality of institutions and oversight bodies**

Module 4: Tools for Dialogue and Conflict Sensitivity
Gain tools to manage disagreements and foster respectful conversations.

- **Facilitating respectful debate and feedback**
- **Preventing and resolving conflict in multi-stakeholder settings**
- **Sustaining engagement despite political differences**

Module 5: Promoting Trust Through Shared Standards
Apply what you've learned to foster trust and cooperation in electoral contexts.

- **How shared standards reduce suspicion and tension**
- **Communicating commitments clearly to the public**
- **Maintaining progress through electoral cycles**

Target Audience

This course is for election officials, observers, civic leaders, and anyone interested in fair elections. Learn how to build agreement on key democratic standards and promote trust in the process. No experience needed—just a passion for making elections transparent, inclusive, and credible for everyone.

Certificate of Completion

Participants who successfully complete the "Building Consensus on Standards for Democratic Elections" course will receive a Certificate of Completion. This certificate reflects your commitment to upholding democratic values through collaborative learning. It acknowledges your readiness to foster inclusion, transparency, and trust in electoral processes—an essential contribution to vibrant and resilient democracies.

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